

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HAMBUR 01084 291415Z

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ACTION COME-00

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FM AMCONSUL HAMBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3470

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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REF: A. STATE A-3758

B. STATE 172593

C. STUTTGART A-75

C. HAMBURG 1011

SUMMARY:

1. A SECOND MEETING WITH RICHARD MUELLER WAS SLIGHTLY MORE PRO-
DUCTIVE THAN THE FIRST. MUELLER CHANGED PART OF HIS STORY(SEE
REF D), ADDED A FEW BITS OF POSSIBLY VALID INFORMATION ON USA
TRADE, HIS RELATION TO SEMICON OF SWITZERLAND AND THE INFRA-
ROT-TECHNIK DEAL, AND PROMISED MORE IN THE FUTURE. DURING THE
COURSE OF TWO MEETINGS, MUELLER MAY ALSO HAVE PROVIDED A HINT
AS TO WHY HE IS DISTRUSTED BY SCHIAVO. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED EARLIER, MUELLER ORGINALLY STATED THAT THE
MACHINERY BEING SOUGHT IN HAMBURG HAD BEEN PURCHASED FOR USA
TRADE AND NOT FOR P.K. ELECTRONIC. WHEN CONFRONTED BY THE DIS-
CREPANCY BETWEEN HIS STORY AND KLUEVER'S DURING A SECOND MEETING
WITH HIM, MUELLER AGREED THAT KLUEVER WAS GENERALLY CORRECT,
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PAGE 02 HAMBUR 01084 291415Z

BUT PASSED OFF THE DIFFERENCES AS MERE DETAIL. MUELLER CLAIMED

THAT USA TRADE'S FINANCIAL BACKING OF THE DEAL MADE THAT COMPANY DE FACTO OWNER OF THE EQUIPMENT. MUELLER ASSERTED HIS BELIEF THAT THE MACHINES ARE STILL IN HAMBURG, PROBABLY IN THE FREE-PORT. HE AGAIN DENIED, HOWEVER, ANY PART IN THE ARRANGEMENT BEYOND THAT OF AGENT AND SPECIFICALLY DENIED HAVING ARRANGED TRANSFER OF THE EQUIPMENT FROM THE AIRPORT TO A FREEPORT STORAGE COMPANY. MUELLER CLAIMED TO REMEMBER HAVING A COPY OF THE CONTRACT BETWEEN USA TRADE AND P.K. ELECTRONIC AND PROMISED TO LOOK FOR IT AND ANY OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WHEN HE RETURNS FROM YET ANOTHER 10-DAY BUSINESS TRIP.

3. MUELLER CLAIMED TO KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT USA TRADE OTHER THAN THAT THE COMPANY HAS MONEY. HE CLAIMED TO HAVE MET TWO USA TRADE OFFICERS, "BILL" HUGO, AN AMERICAN, AND AN UNNAMED FRENCH CITIZEN, IN SWITZERLAND. (IN AN APPARENTLY OFFHAND REMARK, MUELLER SAID HUGO IS WANTED FOR UNSPECIFIED CRIMES IN THE U.S. AND THEREFORE RESIDES OVERSEAS). MUELLER PROMISED TO SUPPLY THE FULL NAMES OF BOTH MEN, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER INFORMATION HE COULD FIND, ON HIS RETURN.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION, MUELLER DENIED ANY RELATIONSHIP WITH SEMICON OF SWITZERLAND. HE LATER ADMITTED HAVING HAD A "SMALL" EQUITY INTEREST, BUT CLAIMED THAT HE NO LONGER HOLDS IT.

5. ON THE INFRAROT-TECHNIK DEAL, MUELLER ADMITTED EISELT WAS ACTING FOR A COMPANY PARTIALLY OWNED BY MUELLER. HE IMPLIED THE COMPANY IS IN THE STUTTGART AREA, BUT REFUSED TO NAME IT. MUELLER JUSTIFIED USING EISELT AS A FRONT BY A VAGUE ASSERTION THAT THE ARRANGEMENT ALLOWED MUELLER TO AVOID "MIDDLEMEN", BUT AGAIN HE REFUSED TO CLARIFY.

6. IN BOTH THIS DISCUSSION AND THAT REPORTED IN REF D, MUELLER BROUGHT UP THE HONEYWELL CASE AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE USG'S ALLEGEDLY DIFFERENT TREATMENT OF SMALL FOREIGN COMPANIES AND LARGE U.S. FIRMS. HE ASSERTED THAT HE IS FAMILIAR WITH THE HONEYWELL CASE ONLY TO THE EXTENT THAT ALL KNOWLEDGEABLE ELECTRONICS IMPORTERS ARE, BUT CLAIMED TO KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT HONEYWELL TO "BLOW THE CASE WIDE OPEN". IT IS AT LEAST POSSIBLE THAT MUELLER HAS MADE SIMILAR COMMENTS TO OTHERS. IF SO, AND THE COMMENTS HAVE GOTTEN BACK TO HIS PRESENT OR FORMER COLLEAGUES IN SWITZERLAND, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 HAMBUR 01084 291415Z

THEY MIGHT BE THE SOURCE OF SCHIAVO'S BELIEF THAT MUELLER TALKED. BROGAN

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